

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A microkeratome cutter head comprising a body and a cutter blade slidably mounted in a housing passing through the body in a direction substantially parallel to the cutting edge of the blade, wherein the blade possesses a slot parallel to its cutting edge and opening out into one of the side edges of the blade, while the housing possesses a projection received in the slot of the blade as it is inserted into the body, and co-operating with the edges of the slot to guide the blade in its motion parallel to its cutting edge.
2. A cutter head according to claim 1, wherein the projection is a partition of length shorter than the length of the housing in the sliding direction, thereby defining an inside end of the housing that forms an abutment for positioning the blade in the housing.
3. A cutter head according to claim 1, wherein the projection is constituted by at least one peg extending perpendicularly to the plane of the cutter blade.
4. A cutter head according to claim 2, wherein the blade includes an oblong opening substantially perpendicular to the slot for receiving a drive finger turning eccentrically about an axis orthogonal to the slot.
5. A cutter head according to claim 4, wherein the housing possesses a recess beneath the blade in register with the oblong slot allowing the drive finger to rotate.
6. A cutter head according to claim 2, wherein the blade is fitted on one of its faces with a drive knob provided with a notch extending orthogonally to the slot for receiving a drive finger rotating eccentrically about an axis orthogonal to the slot.

7. A cutter head according to claim 6, wherein the profile of the portion of the housing through the body in which the knob of the blade slides does not come into contact with the knob.

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8. A cutter head according to claim 1, wherein the housing possesses at least one channel parallel to the partition and situated between the partition and the cutting edge of the blade, forming a cavity for

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collecting particles.

9. A microkeratome cutter blade comprising a metal plate with a cutting edge and two side edges connecting the ends of the cutting edge to a rear edge, the blade

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including a slot parallel to the cutting edge and opening out into one of its side edges.

10. A blade according to claim 9, wherein the slot opens out into the side edge in flared manner.

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11. A blade according to claim 9, including an oblong opening perpendicular to the cutting edge.

12. A blade according to claim 9, including a drive knob projecting from one of its faces.

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